Coal mafias in Chhattisgarh

†409. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware that a large gang of coal mafia is involved in smuggling of coal in the mines of Gevara, Deepka, Kusmunda, Dhheikadeeh etc., in Korba region of Chhattisgarh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that network of coal mafias runs its own rules and regulations in mines as a result about fifty truck loads of coal is being taken out illegally everyday; and

(c) if not, the details thereof and if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) There is no specific information regarding coal mafia activities in Korba region of Chhattisgarh.

(b) and (c) Do not arise. However, whenever any irregularities are noticed, immediate corrective action is taken.

Ban on mining activities

*413. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court have issued an order banning all mining activities in the entire Aravali hills; and

(b) if so, the details of the order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) In an order delivered on 30th October, 2002 in the WP(C) 202/1995 in the matter of TN. Godavarman Thirumulkpad, the Hon'ble Supreme Court, on the basis of the Second Monitoring Report of the Central Empowered Committee have

†Orlginal notice of the quostion was received in Hindi.

prohibited and banned mining in the Aravalli hills of Rajasthan and Haryana. The relevant order is reproduced below:—

"ILLEGAL MINING IN ARAVALLIS

Second Monitoring Report of the Central Empowered Committee dated 28th October, 2002, has been received from the Central Empowered Committee.This Report deals with the mining which is termed as illegal in the Aravalli hills. It is stated in this Report that the Members of the Central Empowered Committee visited the affected areas on 27th October, 2002, namely the forest area in the Aravalli Hills-Kota and Alampur Village. Report states that mining operations are being carried put in this area which is a forest area which was being recreated by plantations under the Aravalli Mining Programme funded by the Japanese Government in the early 90s. We, prohibit and ban all mining activity in the entire Aravalli hills.This ban is not limited only to the hills encircling Kota and Alampur villages but extends to the entire hill range of Aravalli from Haryana to Rajasthan.The Chief Secretary, State of Haryana and Chief Secretary, State of Rajasthan are directed to ensure that no mining activity in the Aravalli hills is carried out, especially, in that part which has been regarded as forest area or protected under the Environment (Protection) Act."

The matter was listed before the Hon'ble Supeme Court again on 16.12.2002 and it has been learnt that the ban on legal mining has been lifted in case of Rajasthan State and partially lifted in case of Haryana State.

Hydro Power Projects in Brahmaputra and Barak Tributaries

*417. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the preparation of detailed Project Reports of the Hydro Power Projects in the Brahmaputra and Barak Tributaries of N.E. Region; and

(b) the total outlay, agency entrusted, target set, source of funding etc. of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRIANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a)to (b) Detailed Projects Reports (DPRs) have been prepared for 17